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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AND-20-41

March 28, 1941

Part I - STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

SUMMARY OF CABLES ON FOREIGN DEVELOPMENTS: FRANCE: The daily rations now being allotted in the occupied and unoccupied zones for bread, alimentary pastes, rice, dried vegetables, potatoes, sugar, fats (i.e., butter, margarine, lard, vegetable oils, and powdered and condensed milk), cheese, and meat represent only about one-half of the theoretical daily requirements (i.e., 2,500 calories) of the average consumer. Moreover, there is a distinct deficiency in the amount of fats permitted to be purchased, consumers often being unable to obtain even the subnormal allotment.

DESPITE THE LOW LEVEL OF PRODUCTION and the lack of reserves of fats it is unlikely that the fat ration will be further reduced. However, reductions in the rations for bread and other starchy foods are imminent in the free zone, and may be followed shortly in the occupied zone as a precautionary measure. Because of small reserves of sugar in the free zone a reduction in the sugar ration in that part of France appears necessary unless supplies are obtained from the occupied zone or through imports.

NORWAY: An incident early in February gives tangible evidence corroborating the general impression that the Germans are removing quantities of food from Norway. A Norwegian ship of 2,000 tons, loaded with a capacity cargo of Norwegian tinned fish and other foodstuffs was forced to put into the Eriksberg shipbuilding yard at Goteborg, Sweden, for repairs. The vessel was en route from Norway to Germany. Members of the Norwegian crew complained that they were suffering from lack of certain staple foods and the workers in the shipyard contributed and purchased butter, bread and other edibles for them. In return the Norwegians entered the ship's hold without breaking open the hatches, and when the vessel departed shipyard employees found they had left on the quay cases of tinned fish in payment for the food given them by the Swedish laborers. The Norwegian seamen stated that their ship was one of many engaged in transporting Norwegian food to Germany.

SLOVANIA: The Slovak Import Export Corporation, known as Dovus, is reported as negotiating for further deliveries of cotton under the Slovak-Soviet trade agreement. Indications are that deliveries will start in the near future, payment being made in dollars. Reports indicate further that Dovus is completing arrangements with a Bulgarian export firm to import 7,000 tons of maize in exchange for cables, iron, cotton, yarn, and other industrial products valued at 12,000,000 kroner.

UNITED KINGDOM: The Ministry of Food announced that milk consumption would be reduced by approximately one-seventh from the middle of April. However, there is to be no restriction of milk supplies for young children, nursing or expectant mothers, hospitals, or ill persons. During the summer months milk saved by curtailing consumption will be used for the production of cheese and condensed milk. In view of the current cheese shortage the Ministry announced that cheese will be rationed soon, with agricultural workers and miners receiving special rations. Lord Woolton stated in Parliament that the country must expect difficulties in maintaining milk production at present levels.

1. The first of the three main points of the report is that the Government has failed to take adequate steps to ensure that the public health service is properly organized and financed. This is particularly true in the case of the provision of medical services to the population as a whole.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information

AND -20-21
March 28, 1941

Part II - FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE

AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

REA TO BUILD UP FLEET OF MOBILE POWER UNITS: The Rural Electrification Administration is working toward a goal of 60 mobile power units, each capable of developing 100 kilowatts of power, to serve as a second line of power reserves for the defense program and for rural cooperative power projects. Twenty-five of these units have been completed. Ten have been delivered to cooperatives in Illinois, Virginia, Oregon, North Dakota, and New Mexico. Fifteen more are in the process of being delivered to REA groups in Oregon, Illinois, Ohio, New Mexico, Colorado, Minnesota, Idaho, California, Missouri, and Georgia. In addition, "Power Reserve Cooperatives" -- a secondary group of cooperatives whose membership consists of regular electrical cooperative societies -- have been formed in seven States, pledged to buy 37 more mobile power units during the coming year. The plan is to use the mobile units to furnish power for Army cantonment construction jobs and munitions plants until adequate stationary power facilities can be developed.

REA PLANS TO EXTEND ELECTRICAL DEVELOPMENT TO ALASKA: An extensive cooperative electrical development is in prospect for Alaska, to serve new defense projects as well as agriculture. Donald Makay, REA engineer, is now making an inspection tour of the territory. Farmers of the Matanuska Valley colony have requested funds to build a 75-mile power line to bring electricity to the valley's 375 families. Makay is in Unalaska this week, after visiting in Kodiak last week. At both of these places the Army and Navy are building new bases and enlarging existing facilities.

E&PQ STAFF SERVE AS CONSULTANTS ON TERMITE CONTROL: At the request of the Defense Commission, the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine will serve as advisory consultant on termite-proofing buildings built for defense purposes throughout the country. The Bureau also is cooperating with military authorities in combating insect invasions on various wood products stored in defense warehouses, such as gunstocks, boat oars, and airplane stock. Bulletins on termite control and on control of powder post beetles have been sent to all defense agencies engaged in building. Under the direction of Dr. Frank C. Craighead, chief of the Division of Insect Investigations, the nine field laboratories are cooperating with defense project builders in many parts of the country. Bureau workers have been instructed to cooperate with local military and civilian defense authorities in advising anti-insect measures both in Army camps and housing projects for defense workers. When requested, inspectors are sent to examine buildings and to recommend precautionary or remedial measures. Such an inspection recently at Langley Field by two bureau workers from Washington disclosed that structural changes were necessary to make buildings there termite proof.

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SECRETARY WICKARD HAS REAPPOINTED THE DEPARTMENT GRASSLAND committee for another year because of the response to the regional conferences held last year and requests for assistance in meetings scheduled for this year. Four meetings -- Northeast, Southeast, North Central Plains, and Colorado -- already are planned. Members of the committee are: O. S. Aamodt, BPI, chairman; C. R. Enlow, SCS; J. L. Boatman, Extension; T. E. Woodward, BDI; T. H. Bartilson, BAI; W. R. Chapline, Forest Service; Sherman Johnson, BAE; E. G. Moore, BPI; and R. C. McChord, AAA.

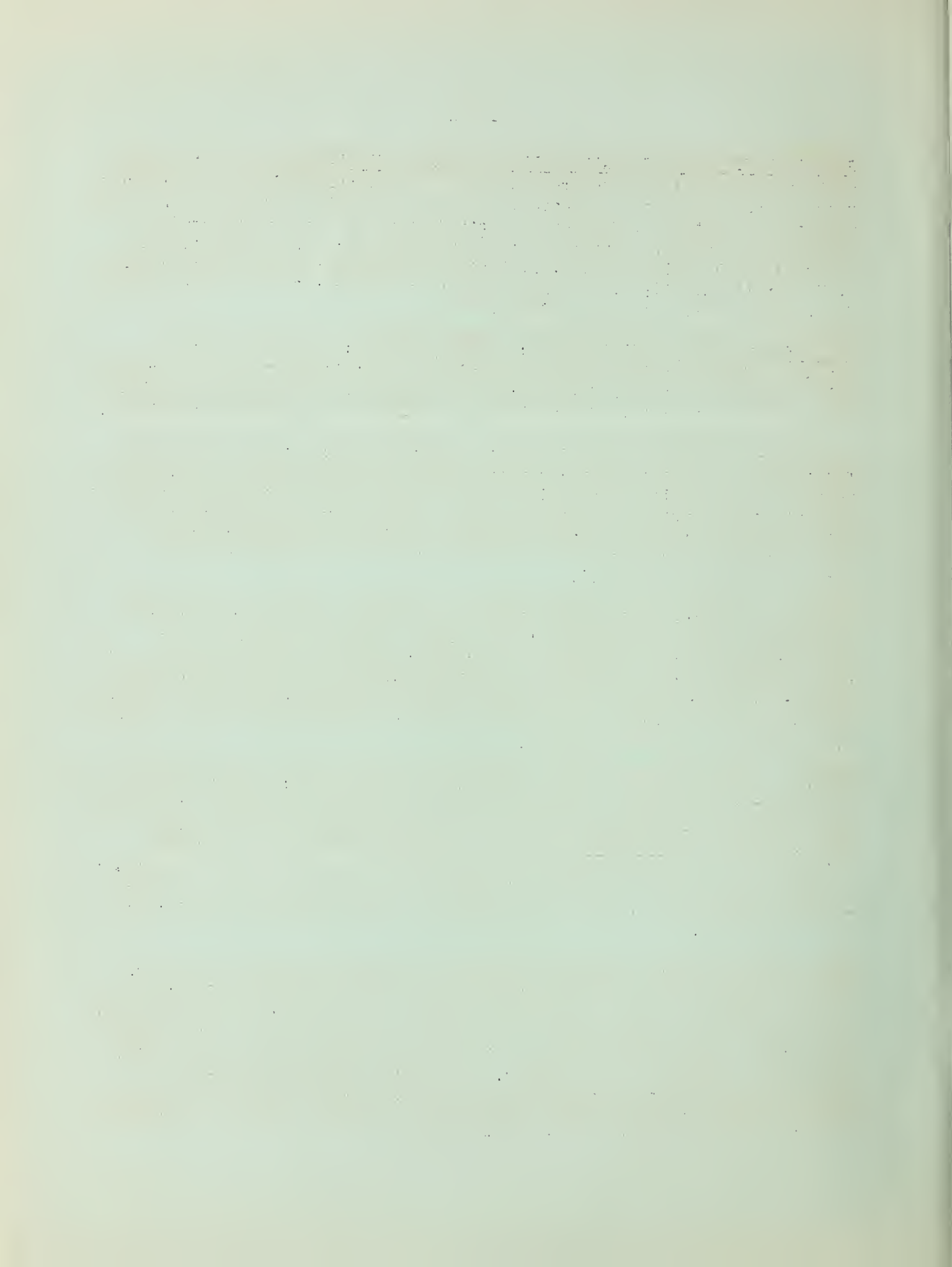
SUMMARY OF FOREIGN DEVELOPMENTS: UNITED KINGDOM: The Wool Control announced further release of 10,000 bales of West Indian wool for direct sale and shipment to the United States from India, making a total of 43,000 bales released to date. The wool will be shipped as it becomes available.

The Liverpool Cotton Association agreed to accept the Government's recommendation that it form a company composed of Manchester and Liverpool members to act as its principal or agent for acquiring cotton on Government account in any part of the world, and to arrange for the distribution of cotton to spinners in the United Kingdom. Under this arrangement the Government will become the exclusive importer and distributor of raw cotton (effective April 1.).

CANADA: The Ontario Flue-cured Tobacco Association, noting the visit of the British Tobacco Controller to the United States, and hoping that Canadian exports to the British market might be resumed within a year, will permit planting of 100 percent of the 1939 acreage in Essex County and 75 percent elsewhere instead of 66 2/3 as previously announced. The Association, however, will not permit new growers to plant in 1941 and it will strictly limit transfer of acreage quotas.

GERMANY: German margarine since January 15, 1941, has been vitamized by the admixture of vitamin A in the form of a concentrate reported to be manufactured from the livers of whales and fish such as tuna, halibut, red perch, and cod. The liver extract is first deodorized and the vitamin obtained from it is dissolved in refined edible oil. One cubic centimeter of concentrate is added to every 10 kilograms of margarine and, according to German authorities, gives the margarine a vitamin content equal to that of fresh butter.

PERU: Reports indicate that the British Government has agreed to purchase sufficient quantities of Peruvian products to supply exchange for the existing backlog of demand for sterling bills, and to care for requirements that arise from Peruvian purchasing of British goods and from other Peruvian obligations in the sterling area. The British purchases are to be mainly cotton, wool, hides and molybdenum. The British Government recently indicated its intention to purchase the entire Peruvian production of molybdenum but found that the Japanese had already arranged to buy all available supplies through November of the current year.



URUGUAY: The reaction of the Uruguayan press to the defeat in the Senate of the amendment to the naval appropriation bill permitting the purchase of corned beef of foreign origin was immediate and unfavorable. Even the administration organ, *La Manana*, stated editorially that the obstacle is "truly lamentable," while "*Diario*" headlines its editorial "The Good-Neighbor Policy Should be More than Just a Theory." The *Charltonista* "*Montevideo*" says that "The old conservative policy of the United States has again been resuscitated," while the extremist press is sarcastically critical.

NEW ZEALAND: The Ministry of Supply in London advised that the New Zealand Marketing Department is being authorized to release 15,000 bales of carpet wool, including 5,000 bales previously released, to the United States.

JAPAN: The Cabinet Information Board announced that Japan on March 11 reached an understanding with Venezuela, whereby trade relations for a year will be continued on the basis of an understanding concluded July 1, 1940. Under that understanding Japan undertook to purchase from Venezuela as large quantities of goods as possible and Venezuela agreed to refrain from imposing unreasonable restrictions on imports from Japan.

CHINA: The general economic outlook continues discouraging due principally to the following factors: (1) Increasing degree to which the resources of Japanese-controlled regions are made to serve Japan's aims; (2) operation of regional controls limiting or preventing trade between Manchuria, North China, Wenchiang, and Central China; (3) more effective blockade operations restricting the interchange of merchandise between Japanese and Chinese controlled regions; (4) increasing control by Japanese in occupied regions over the trade of those regions with other countries; (5) lowered economic status of the rural masses as a result of crop shortages and increased taxes; (6) lowered economic status of industrial workers in Japanese-controlled areas due to dislocations of supply and shortages of essentials caused by Japanese confiscations; (7) increasing influx of Japanese into the commodity trades under regulations giving Japanese monopoly control.

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